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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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JULY, 1962

Industrial Employment Boosted to 175,600

Stepped up hiring in fields of industry and commerce brought an increase of 5,200 workers on non-farm payrolls during June. Estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows 175,600 wage earners on non-farm payrolls at mid-June. This employment figure is 2,700 higher than June 1961, and 4,600 more than the average June employment of the past ten years. It was but 1,800 shy of the record June employment of 177,400 recorded in 1956.

Completes Six Month Cycle

June was the sixth consecutive month reflecting increased employment over the same month in the preceding year. It was also the first month this year to show employment advances in all basic major industry groups over the preceding month.

Lumbering Nears Peak Employment

Despite some temporary weather caused interruptions, lumbering and logging hires were an important factor in the June labor market. Employment in lumber manufacturing showed an advance of 700 from May to a total of 7,900. If trends of past years are followed there will be more gains during July and August. Most major mills were operating on a two-shift basis. The only dark spot in a favorable picture was the continued idleness of 200 mill workers in the Missoula area because of a labor dispute.

Construction Has 14,200

A wide array of building and road construction kept 14,200 workers busy during

Montana's Mid-Year Economy Shows Strength With Labor Force Growing Faster Than Jobs

The labor supply in Montana at the end of June remained virtually equal to that of a month earlier. A total of 11,313 workers were seeking jobs through the state's 22 local offices at the end of June, compared with 11,652 during May. The total, although down 4,300 from June, 1961, was 2,000 more than the average June jobseeker total of the past ten years. New job applications during June, at 6,533, were above normal for this time of year. Many of these new entrants to the labor market come from classrooms of high school and college, a normal seasonal feature of the labor supply. The credit side of the ledger reveals the fact that big labor surpluses which started to build after the 1957-58 recession are gradually being reduced as the pace of the economy quickens.

June. Employment advanced by 400 from May, and was 1,500 higher than a year ago. A few layoffs occurred at missile sites areas, air base projects, and others but the start of new projects provided more job opportunities.

Trade-Service Hiring Active

Prevalence of record summer tourist traffic reflected active hiring trends in trade and service establishments throughout the state. Service industries added 1,200 workers to June payrolls, while trade units expanded by 700. Shortages of cooks, waitresses, maids, sales clerks and service station attendants continued to persist in some areas, including Helena, Kalispell, and Livingston.

Government Up 1,600

The normal seasonal upswing in the forest, national park, irrigation, and other government services provided jobs for 1,600 more workers during June. The employment gain was nearly all at the federal level, up 1,500 from May. State and local governments added 100 to June payrolls.

Small Increases Elsewhere

Statewide mining employment was up 200 from May to a total of 7,100. Although the increase was moderate, there is significance in the fact that it is the first rise in mining employment totals since the first of the year. The situation in July may be different if a teamsters strike in Butte is prolonged. Forty coal miners at Roundup are idle as the result of a dispute over safety conditions. Small increases over May employment totals are also reflected in the transportation, utilities and communications group, up 200; and finance, insurance and real estate units, up 100.

Farm Labor Demand Mounting

Demand for farm workers will be a labor market factor from July through September. The hay harvest is well advanced with good labor requirements reflected. Grain crop estimates are considerably better than last year despite hail damage in some areas. This, in turn, will magnify the demand for harvest hands, transportation and other workers.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE					
	Total		New Hire			May 1962	Apr 1962	May 1961	Total		Quit	
	1) May 1962	2) Apr 1962	May 1962	Apr 1962	May 1961				May 1962	Apr 1962	May 1961	May 1962
3) All Manufacturing.....	6.1	6.5	5.4	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.1	2.7	2.0	1.9	1.5
Durable Goods.....	7.3	7.9	7.0	5.0	5.4	5.6	4.4	4.0	3.2	2.3	2.2	1.5
Primary Metal.....	5.7	5.4	1.6	3.7	2.0	1.0	4.8	5.2	3.5	1.9	1.5	.9
3) Nondurable Goods.....	3.7	4.0	2.3	3.4	2.6	2.0	3.9	2.4	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.4
All Mining.....	11.2	10.3	7.3	6.1	4.3	2.3	7.9	6.3	5.6	3.8	3.5	2.4
Metal Mining.....	7.4	10.4	4.6	2.1	2.8	.5	4.8	5.7	3.8	2.9	3.3	1.8

1) Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures previously revised on more complete returns

3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary July 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(255 jobseekers, 173 new, 141 men, 114 women). Significant job gains in lumbering, logging and manufacturing industries during June. Good trends also exhibited in other industries. Job prospects at smelter for next three months not too favorable; some layoffs of summer help occurring.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(2,510 jobseekers, 1,083 new, 1,664 men, 846 women). Wet weather continued to temporarily curb some outside activities including farm and construction work during early June. Good volume in main street trade and service establishments as tourist season advances. Dispute over safety conditions kept 40 Roundup coal miners idle. Some upturn noted in oil field work. Good farm labor trends with supply and demand nearly in balance.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(244 jobseekers, 346 new, 148 men, 96 women). Nearly \$8 million in highway and building construction projects in progress. Employment at major sawmill remains steady with over 100 employees. Heavy flow of tourist traffic keeps trade and service units busy. Manufacturing firms have good payrolls. Steady trends in agriculture.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,203 jobseekers, 440 new, 700 men, 503 women). Economic upswing continues but clouded by possibility of labor dispute in metal mining industry. Mining at present, however, shows good hiring patterns. About 500 men working on three major construction projects including copper concentrator plant and interstate highway sections. Steady gains reported in industries catering to tourist trade. Farm hiring slow.

CUT BANK—(168 jobseekers, 92 new, 119 men, 49 women). Construction work in East Glacier and Browning areas largely responsible for increased employment. Construction of new lumber mills slated to start in July with employment potential of 150. Normal seasonal job prospects in trade and service segments.

DILLON—(112 jobseekers, 119 new, 72 men, 40 women). Hiring in construction and agriculture at good pace during June. Over 250 men employed on various construction including road, dam and building projects. Good demand for hayhands, irrigators, and other farm workers.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(364 jobseekers, 188 new, 212 men, 152 women). Air base construction force down to 185 as some projects, including housing

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—

	1962 June	1962 May	1961 June	1953-62 June Avg.
Industrial Employment	175,600	170,400	172,900	171,000
New Job Applicants	6,533	5,089	5,285	5,033
Job Applicants, End of Month	11,313	11,652	15,619	9,207

Insured Unemployment, Week of

	1962 July 6	1962 June 2	1961 July 7	1958-62 July Wk.
New and Renewal Claims	589	505	740	665
Unemployed Weeks Filed	2,354	3,308	4,091	3,778
Total Unemployment Claims	2,943	3,813	4,831	4,443

units, completed. Main street business trends look good with increased jobs in trade and service units. Farm hiring up considerably with improved moisture conditions.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(227 jobseekers, 102 new, 136 men, 91 women). Good progress noted on construction projects including courthouse, high school, clinic and highway units, but tempo of new hiring slowed. Small grain and range grass crops in best condition in years. Sugar beet field work occupies 360, including 30 teenagers.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,910 jobseekers, 1,339 new, 1,110 men, 800 women). Led by trade and manufacturing, most industries exhibited good hiring trends during June. Construction hiring at missile sites restricted to replacements only. Total missile work force of 4,500 expected to remain constant until late September. New hiring chiefly for mechanical and technical workers. Farm hiring stepped up late June after earlier rains.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(231 jobseekers, 130 new, 132 men, 99 women). Fairly active labor market trends in nearly all industry segments. Experienced farm hands in short supply. Forest service payrolls expanded by 75 workers. One-half million dollars in construction projects to start in July.

HAYRE, Chinook, Harlem—(158 jobseekers, 211 new, 103 men, 55 women). Industry job placements over last month and last year. Increased hiring noted in public utility firms, service industries, and private households. New construction starts include \$270,000 radar tower and city storm sewer system. Farm prospects appear good; small grain harvest to start August 1.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(674 jobseekers,

343 new, 464 men, 210 women). Brisk hiring activities in construction, logging and lumbering industries during June. 425 men working on three major construction projects. Sawmill operations at White Sulphur Springs at near maximum with most mills on two shift basis. Farm labor demand steady with more activity expected late July.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(712 jobseekers, 458 new, 535 men, 177 women). Improved economic conditions over last year reflected in 50% decline in jobseeker files this year. Positive labor market aspects include good construction agenda, and high level employment in manufacturing, trade and service industries. Sweet cherry harvest late July will provide employment for 550 in picking, sorting, packing, and shipping activities. Good demand for hay hands.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(161 jobseekers, 174 new, 115 men, 46 women). Industry job placements 80% above a year ago sparked by increased hiring in construction and trade. Preparation of silos for missile installation at good pace with completion expected by October 1. Farm labor demand rising with more favorable weather.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(198 jobseekers, 93 new, 118 men, 80 women). Wet weather good part of month held back logging and farm work. Construction chiefly in shape of highway projects, employing about 200. Some hiring of railroad track repair crews noted. Heavy tourist traffic straining trade and service establishments as shortages of cooks, waitresses and maids persist.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(100 jobseekers, 141 new, 62 men, 38 women). Improved farm econ-

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)*

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1954	148.8	147.6	149.4	153.4	158.0	164.1	166.6	167.8	157.1	156.1	160.3	158.0	157.5
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.5
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
1961	156.9	154.8	156.0	159.5	164.6	172.9	175.2	176.6	174.6	171.6	167.3	164.2	166.2
1962	158.1	158.0	159.0	164.5	170.4	175.6**							

*Final figures based on the basis of more complete and accurate figures for industry segments not covered under the Unemployment Insurance Program. **Preliminary Estimate.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary July 1

omy instilling confidence in general business community. Job orders from trade establishments doubled from last year and five times greater than last month. Good activity also in building and road construction. Farm labor demand keeps at good pace.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,156 jobseekers, 615 new, 803 men, 353 women). Good economic trends holding steady. Employment gains most prevalent in construction with variety of projects in progress. Lumber manufacturing at good capacity with most mills working six days. Two labor disputes involving 200 mill workers and 60 mechanics still in progress. Farm crops and livestock in good condition but only moderate farm hiring.

POLSON—(249 jobseekers, 153 new, 136 men, 113 women). Work on \$1½ million in construction projects moving ahead with no labor shortages. Trade and service employment at normal seasonal levels. Sweet cherry harvest to start July 20, employing about 75 pickers and 200 processing plant workers.

SHELBY—(286 jobseekers, 122 new, 203 men, 83 women). Employment opportunities in non-farm industries fairly good despite general tightening of local economy. Good demand for waitresses, maids, sales clerks and service station attendants as tourist traffic increases. Farm labor demand slow with insufficient moisture.

SIDNEY—(77 jobseekers, 50 new, 43 men, 34 women). Labor market trends in industry and farm not too encouraging. Lack of major construction projects and uncertain farm crop prospects keep economy from advancing. Little change noted in volume of trade and service establishments.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(131 jobseekers, 54 new, 98 men, 33 women). June labor demand largely for sawmill and woods workers. Buildup of forest service crews as fire index rose. Road and building projects on normal schedule. Main street business at good levels.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scoby—(187 jobseekers, 107 new, 118 men, 69 women). Moderate employment gains in most industry groups during June. Petroleum industry led the field with additions of oil exploration and drilling crews. Some shortage of workers in service industry classifications. Farm labor demand up with some temporary shortages of experienced hands.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 13th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 744 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,378 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	June 1962 (2)	May 1962 (3)	June 1961	May '62 to June '62	June '61 to June '62
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES					
Manufacturing	175,600	170,400	172,900	5,200	2,700
Durable goods	21,100	20,200	20,700	900	400
Lumber and timber products	14,000	13,200	13,100	800	900
Primary metals	7,900	7,200	8,000	700	100
Other (4)	3,900	3,800	3,400	100	500
Nondurable goods	2,200	2,200	1,700	00	500
Food and kindred products	7,100	7,000	7,600	100	500
Printing and publishing	3,900	3,700	4,300	200	400
Petroleum refining	1,600	1,700	1,700	—	100
Other (5)	800	800	900	00	100
Mining	800	800	700	00	100
Metal mining	7,100	6,900	7,100	200	00
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	4,000	4,000	4,200	00	200
Petroleum-natural gas production	900	800	800	100	100
Contract Construction	2,200	2,100	2,100	100	100
Contractors, building construction	14,200	13,800	12,700	400	1,500
Contractors, other than building	3,800	3,800	3,100	00	700
Contractors, special trade	5,900	5,800	5,800	100	100
Transportation and utilities	4,500	4,200	3,800	300	700
Interstate railroads	18,500	18,300	18,900	200	400
Transportation except railroads	8,500	8,300	8,700	200	200
Utilities including communication	4,000	4,000	4,100	00	100
6,000	6,000	6,100	00	100	
Trade	40,800	40,200	40,900	600	100
Wholesale trade	8,200	8,300	8,600	00	400
Retail trade	32,600	31,900	32,300	700	300
General merchandise and apparel	5,800	5,700	6,200	100	400
Food stores	5,200	5,200	4,900	00	300
Eating and drinking establishments	8,600	8,100	8,600	500	00
Automotive and filling stations	5,800	5,800	6,000	00	200
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	7,200	7,100	6,600	100	600
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,800	6,700	6,900	100	100
Services and miscellaneous	24,800	23,600	24,200	1,200	600
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	3,900	3,200	3,800	700	100
Personal services	2,100	2,000	2,200	100	100
Other (6)	18,800	18,400	18,200	400	600
Government	42,300	40,700	41,500	1,600	800
Federal	12,400	10,900	12,300	1,500	100
State and local	29,900	29,800	29,200	100	700
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	24,100	23,600	22,900	500	1,200
Manufacturing	3,800	3,700	3,200	100	600
Contract construction	3,400	3,300	3,500	100	100
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,100	2,200	00	100
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,800	5,700	5,500	100	300
Services and miscellaneous (7)	5,100	4,900	4,800	200	300
Government	3,900	3,900	3,700	00	200
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	24,100	23,500	24,400	600	300
Manufacturing	3,100	3,100	3,100	00	00
Contract construction	1,600	1,300	1,800	300	200
Transportation and utilities	2,800	2,800	2,900	00	100
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,500	7,500	7,500	00	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,500	1,500	1,500	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (8)	3,900	3,800	4,100	100	200
Government	3,700	3,500	3,500	200	200

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion picture, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership or-

ganizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes finance, insurance, real estate and mining.

(8) Same as (6) above. Also includes mining

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JUNE, 1962 AND JUNE, 1961

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement						UI Claims Wk. 7-6			
	June 1962		June 1961		June 1962		June 1961		June 1962			June 1961			1962	1961		
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.		
Anaconda	173	8	59	10	255	15	626	112	150	9	159	24	53	24	77	29	122	264
Billings	1,083	164	940	158	2,510	367	3,391	499	538	1,686	2,224	254	496	1,413	1,909	238	645	879
Bozeman	346	56	190	22	244	49	450	62	239	76	315	60	249	102	351	88	46	116
Butte	440	55	346	47	1,203	171	1,891	587	170	15	185	74	185	24	209	57	417	751
Cut Bank	92	16	107	9	168	28	418	42	66	230	290	41	55	190	245	40	30	63
Dillon	119	35	103	31	112	31	145	34	72	94	166	66	55	91	146	66	29	36
Glasgow	188	29	155	21	364	36	575	108	116	146	262	23	57	109	166	30	91	231
Glendive	102	10	104	16	227	16	152	34	92	1,315	1,407	25	88	820	908	40	22	48
Great Falls	1,339	123	889	167	1,910	220	2,049	474	512	162	674	190	470	210	680	210	363	541
Hamilton	130	15	76	3	231	23	282	46	60	137	197	17	58	274	332	24	55	74
Havre	211	7	215	23	158	22	376	79	101	547	648	74	88	120	208	63	58	129
Helena	343	30	258	27	674	62	506	117	245	82	327	74	258	56	314	74	131	254
Kalispell	458	45	369	57	712	135	1,368	250	209	21	230	56	188	35	223	61	240	401
Lewistown	174	28	184	34	101	22	486	88	169	76	245	72	94	68	162	59	76	91
Livingston	93	7	134	17	198	22	263	48	128	44	172	33	91	37	128	35	28	77
Miles City	141	14	122	12	100	8	163	21	91	865	956	40	55	874	929	34	36	94
Missoula	615	94	564	112	1,156	205	1,408	419	244	332	576	80	187	138	325	86	287	369
Polson	153	8	142	7	249	28	275	47	76	155	231	13	84	82	166	36	60	102
Shelby	122	35	127	34	286	63	259	96	107	192	299	70	79	227	306	45	42	86
Sidney	50	60	4	77	4	119	14	41	3,303	3,344	17	55	2,637	2,692	18	27	52	
Thompson Falls	54	11	51	14	131	30	154	21	94	5	99	22	65	7	72	33	55	65
Wolf Point	107	11	90	19	187	39	263	56	31	31	62	16	20	23	43	6	77	108
TOTALS.....	6,533	801	5,285	844	11,313	1,596	15,619	3,254	3,551	9,523	13,074	1,341	3,030	7,561	10,591	1,372	2,943	4,831

*Includes 170 claims of the Fed. UC Program 142 same a year ago. 31 claims under the Fed. TEC program not included.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	June (1) 1962	May (2) 1962	June 1961	June (1) 1962	May (2) 1962	June 1961	June (1) 1962	May (2) 1962	June 1961
All Manufacturing	\$ 99.40	\$ 98.00	\$ 99.10	39.6	3.92	39.8	\$ 2.51	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.49
Durable goods	92.34	91.72	98.21	38.0	37.9	39.6	2.43	2.42	2.48
Primary metals	105.93	104.37	102.80	40.9	40.3	40.0	2.59	2.59	2.57
Non-durable goods	110.59	107.49	100.50	42.7	41.5	40.2	2.59	2.59	2.50
Food and kindred products	94.32	88.18	83.84	44.7	42.6	41.3	2.11	2.07	2.03
All Mining	107.33	109.88	108.94	39.9	41.0	40.2	2.69	2.68	2.71
Metal mining	107.73	107.73	107.71	39.9	39.9	39.6	2.70	2.70	2.72
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	98.83	99.37	98.50	39.2	39.3	40.1	2.48	2.49	2.37
Transportation (except railroads)	101.08	101.96	103.36	39.2	39.3	40.1	2.48	2.49	2.37
Utilities and communication	97.22	97.86	95.04	39.2	39.3	40.1	2.48	2.49	2.37

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

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COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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